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Lane Vs. the Times

That little old newsmaker, lawyer Mark Lane, has decided it isn't as much fun to have your name in the paper as he thought. The attorney for lost causes has filed a $12 million libel suit against The New York Times, claiming his professional reputation was damaged by the newspaper's stories about the 1978 Peoples' Temple suicides. The lawsuit was filed on behalf of Teresa Buford, a former administrator of the Peoples' Temple in Guyana, and Lane, who represented the Rev. Jim Jones, leader of the cult. A Times spokesman, who asked not to be named, said the Times would not comment on the suit pending receipt and review of the court papers. The suit said the Times published a story indicating Buford and Lane were going to Switzerland to withdraw $8 million from a secret Peoples' Temple bank account. The suit claims Buford was actually in Memphis and Lane was in Paris.